WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preventing and/or treating dysfunction, damage and/or injuries to organs, tissues, and/or cells in human or animal subjects comprising administering to said human or animal subject an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof wherein the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is 2,3-diacetoxybenzoic acid.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is formulated in liquid form in the presence of a buffer.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said buffer is a sodium bicarbonate buffer such that a sodium salt of said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is formed.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject by means selected from the group consisting of oral, intravenous, topical, cutaneous, transdermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, inhalation, intranasal, rectal, vaginal, urethral, ocular, sublingual, transpulmonary, intraperitoneal, mucosal, transmucosal, and irrigation administration means.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered via nasal or mouth passages.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject in liquid form via intravenous means.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject together with one or more therapeutic agents..
9. The method of claim 8 wherein said one or more therapeutic agents comprises an antibiotic selected from the group comprising fluoroquinolines, doxycycline, rifampin, vancomycin, imipenem, chloramphenicol, penicillin, clindamycin, clarithromycin, gentamicin, beta-lactam antibiotics, ketolides, peptide antibiotics, quinupristin/dalfopristin, linezolid and analogs, homologs, and derivatives thereof which have antibiotic functionality.

10. The method of Claim 8 wherein said one or more therapeutic agents comprises at least one antiviral agent selected from the group comprising ribavirin, nucleoside analogues, nonnucleoside inhibitors, protease inhibitors and fusion inhibitors.
11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said one or more therapeutic agents comprises at least one antifungal agent selected from the group comprising ketoconazole, fluconazole and itraconazole.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject together with at least one therapeutic agent for the treatment of sepsis.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein said therapeutic agent for the treatment of sepsis is drotrecogin alfa (activated).
14. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject together with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids, mineralosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, beta-agonists including dopamine and immunomodulators such as colchicine and macrolides, prolastin, penicillamine, desferroxamine, and vitamins, and analogues of all of the above.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is administered to said subject together with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents for the prevention and treatment of blood clots, strokes, and myocardial infarction.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein said therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of thrombolytic agents, tissue plasminogen activators, and platelet inhibitors.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein said therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of alteplase, tenecteplase, anistreplase, reteplase, streptokinase, urokinase, dipyridamole, and clopidogrel.
18. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms in the prevention and/or treatment of one or more diseases or conditions selected from the group of diseases and conditions consisting of acute myocardial syndrome, myocardial

infarction, ischemic stroke, reperfusion following surgery, gastric mucosal injury (ulcer), hepatic microcirculatory dysfunction (hepatitis and alcoholic liver disease), systemic shock of all types, pancreatic microcirculation disturbances in diabetes, ischemia/reperfusion injury of skeletal muscle caused by thromboembolic events or trauma, ischemia/reperfusion crisis in organ transplant recipients, Duchene's muscular dystrophy, prevention of paraplegia secondary to spinal cord injury, cerebrovascular insufficiency, atherosclerosis, vascular ophthalmopathies, sinusitis, cystic fibrosis, rhinitis, decubitus ulcer, peripheral vascular insufficiency, renal insufficiency, ischemic bowel disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, bronchitis, pulmonary colonization with bacteria, such as *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, acne, rosacea, alpha one-antitrypsin deficiency, pulmonary edema, pneumonic plague, congestive heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, lymphangitis, arthritis, burns, diverticulitis, diverticuloisis, lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigoid, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, drug-induced skin reactions, psoriasis, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, eclampsia, pre-eclampsia, malignant hypertension, hypertensive crisis, encephalopathy, encephalitis, meningitis, neuritis, prion-related diseases, systemic hypertension, inflammatory bowel disease, cirrhosis, hepatic encephalopathy, inhalation lung injury, infant respiratory distress syndrome, acute respiratory distress syndrome, severe acute respiratory syndrome, aphtous stomatitis, stomatitis, esophagitis, duodenitis, adenitis, salivary gland inflammation, gingivitis, periodontitis, caries, vaginitis, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, hepatitis, AIDS, Lyme's disease, Rickettsiosis, sarcoidosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial lung disease, emphysema, bronchiestasis, atypical mycobacteria, fungal infections, viral infections such as coronavirus, respiratory synctyial virus, metapneumovirus, rhinoviruses, paramyxoviruses, herpes, adenovirus, Epstein Barr virus, parainfluenza viruses, and human immunodeficiency virus, bacterial infections such as *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Acinetobacter*, *Streptococci*, *Enterococci*, *Eschericha coli*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and

Mycobacterium avium, lichen planus, conjunctivitis, conjunctivitis sicca, nickel, lead, cobalt and other heavy metal poisoning, including accumulation of trace elements and hemochromatosis.

19. The use of claim 18 in the prevention and/or treatment of one or more diseases, conditions, or dysfunctions selected from the group of diseases, conditions and dysfunctions caused by pneumonia, coronavirus, multiple transfusions, trauma, ischemic-reperfusion dysfunctions, stroke, drug overdose and severe acute respiratory syndrome.
20. The use of claim 18 wherein said 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acid is 2,3-diacetoxybenzoic acid.
21. The use of claim 18 wherein said effective therapeutic amount is an amount of from about 0.1 mg. to about 100 mg. per kg. of body weight of said subject.
22. The use of claim 21 wherein said effective therapeutic amount is an amount of from about 5 mg. to about 50 mg. per kg. of body weight of said subject.
23. The use of claim 22 wherein said effective therapeutic amount is an amount of from about 5 mg. to about 20 mg. per kg. of body weight of said subject.
24. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms, administered with an effective therapeutic amount of one or more antibiotics.
25. The use of claim 24 wherein said antibiotics are selected from the group comprising fluoroquinolines, doxycycline, rifampin, vancomycin, imipenem, chloramphenicol, penicillin, clindamycin, clarithromycin, gentamicin, beta-lactam antibiotics, ketolides, peptide antibiotics, quinupristin/dalfopristin, linezolid and analogs, homologs, and derivatives thereof which have antibiotic functionality.
26. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms is administered together with an effective therapeutic amount of one or more antiviral agents selected from the group comprising ribavirin, nucleoside analogues, nonnuceloside inhibitors, protease inhibitors, and fusion inhibitors.

27. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms is administered together with an effective therapeutic amount of one or more antifungal agents selected from the group comprising ketoconazole, fluconazole and itraconazole.
28. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms combined with an effective therapeutic amount of at least one therapeutic agent for the treatment of sepsis.
29. The use of claim 28 wherein said therapeutic agent for the treatment of sepsis is drotrecogin alfa (activated).
30. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms combined with an effective therapeutic amount of one or more therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of corticosteroids, mineralosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, beta-agonists including dopamine, immunomodulators such as colchicine and macrolides, prolastin, penicillamine, desferroxamine, and vitamins, and analogues of all of the above.
31. The use in an effective therapeutic amount of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 2,3-alkylcarbonyloxybenzoic acids and salts thereof in which the alkylcarbonyl group has 2-18 carbon atoms combined with one or more therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of therapeutic agents for the prevention and treatment of blood clots, strokes, and myocardial infarction.
32. The use of claim 31 wherein said therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of thrombolytic agents, tissue plasminogen activators, and platelet inhibitors.
33. The use of claim 32 wherein said therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of alteplase, tenecteplase, anistreplase, reteplase, streptokinase, urokinase, dipyridamole, and clopidogrel.